Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Vocationalisation of Secondary Education", which was started in 1988 is meant to promote vocational education in the higher secondary stage.

(b) The budgetary allocation for Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans for the scheme of "Vocationalisation of Secondary Education" were Rs 410.00 crore, Rs. 100.00 crore and Rs. 350.00 crore respectively. No State-wise allocation was made.

(c) to (e) The schools/institutions imparting vocational education are under the purview of the respective State Governments and the details of the different categories of teachers/students enrolment is not being maintained centrally by the Ministry. The Ministry considers inclusion of new courses in vocational education from time to time based on the proposals from State Governments.

Literacy in Jharkhand

4170. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the literacy rate of Jharkhand;

(b) the reason for the high percentage of school drop-outs;

(c) the reason for universalizing mid-day meals to lure and keep the children in schools;

(d) the teacher-pupil ratio and classroom-pupil ratio in Jharkhand; and

(e) the figures during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to 2001 census, the literacy rate of Jharkhand was 54.13%.

(b) Lack of awareness among parents, inadequate infrastructure facilities and other basic amenities in schools, socio-economic status of families and migration affect the drop-out rate of school children.

(c) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme), 2006 seeks to:-

(i) Improve the nutritional status of children in classes I - V in Government, Local Body, Government aided schools and

Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education centres.

(ii) Encourage poor children, belonging to disadvantaged sections, to attend school more regularly and help them to concentrate on classroom acitivities.

(iii) Provide nutritional support to children of primary stage in drought-affected areas during summer vacation.

To achieve the above objectives, a cooked mid-day meal with nutritional content of 450 calories and 12 gram protein is being provided to all children studying in classes I - V.

(d) and (e) Based on District Information System for Education (DISE, 2005-06) data, the pupil-teacher ratio and pupil-classroom ratio in Jharkhand during the last three years are as follows:—

Pupil-Teacher ratio

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
57	54	48

Pupil-classroom ratio

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
55	59	- 62

Approval of distance courses

4171. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Distance Education Council/IGNOU has approved all the distance courses run by the Vinayaka Mission Research Foundation deemed university Salem, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the present status of approval of distance education courses run by the other deemed universities?